

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 26 have been canceled.

New claims 32-39 are presented for prosecution.

Claims 25 and 27-39 remain pending in the application. Of these, claims 25, 27, 29 and 31 are currently amended.

The Examiner indicates that claims 25, 28 and 30 are allowed. Claim 25 has been amended to correct a grammatical error.

Claim 31 is objected to. Claim 31 has been amended in view of this indication of allowability to incorporate the subject matter of claims 26 and 31.

Claims 26, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Pond, III U.S. 3,087,728. Claim 26 has been canceled. Claims 27 and 29 have been amended to depend from claim 31. As defined by new independent claim 32, the cited reference does not teach or suggest a disposable novelty sports apparatus in which an annular score line is formed on a shaft between the grip end and the equipment end comprising a line of weakness that does not sever the shaft. New dependent claims 33-35 further define the subject matter of claims 32. Nor does the cited reference teach or suggest a disposable novelty sports apparatus in which a shaft includes a rigid and resilient solid polymer material that resiliently bends in response to a bending force applied between the grip end and the equipment end and an annular score line formed on the shaft between the grip end and the equipment end comprising a line of weakness, as defined by new independent claim 36. New dependent claims 37-39 further define the subject matter of claim 36.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 25 and 27-39 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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